

THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11, 13-17, 19-29 and 31-37 are pending. Claim 1 is amended and claims 19-29 and 31-37 are withdrawn from consideration. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A bi-phasic culture medium that supports the growth of protozoa, comprising:

a solid phase containing an egg slope or agar slope; and

a live *Escherichia coli*-free liquid phase consisting essentially of:

a serum,

a peptone,

a phosphate buffered saline; and

optionally an antibiotic or antibiotics.

2. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the solid phase is an egg slope.

3. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the serum is horse serum or rabbit serum.

4. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the peptone is peptone or bactopeptone.

5. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein pH of the phosphate buffered saline is from about 6.8 to about 7.8.

6. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the liquid phase is up to about 98 vol% phosphate buffered saline.

7. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the liquid phase contains about 1 to about 15 vol% of serum.

8. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the peptone is about 1 to about 40 w/w% bactopeptone solution.

9. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the liquid phase contains about 1 to about 15 vol% of the peptone.

10. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 1, wherein the liquid phase includes an antibiotic.

11. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 10, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, penicillin, streptomycin, clindamycin, cephalexin, vancomycin and rifampicin.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously presented) A kit, comprising:
a container containing the medium of claim 1; and
a container containing rice starch.

14. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13 which is contained in a compartmentalized specimen bag.

15. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, further including a utensil for transferring a specimen into the container containing the medium.

16. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13 including an additional container for containing a specimen.

17. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein the container containing rice starch is a sachet.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting the presence of protozoa in a specimen, the method including:

adding to the medium of claim 1, the specimen, rice starch and where necessary, an antibiotic;

allowing the medium to incubate for a time period so as to cultivate protozoa; and
examining at least a portion of the incubated medium to detect the presence of protozoa.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting protozoa in faecal matter, comprising:

adding to the medium of claim 1 faecal matter, rice starch and where necessary, an antibiotic;

allowing the medium to incubate for a time period so as to cultivate intestinal protozoa; and

examining at least a portion of the incubated medium to detect the presence of the protozoa.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of 19, wherein the protozoa detected is one or more of *Dientamoeba fragilis*, *Blastocystis hominis*, *E. histolytica/dispar*, *Entamoeba* or *Iodamoeba*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Endolimax nana*, *Entamoeba coli*, or *Entamoeba hartmanni*.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the protozoa detected is *Dientamoeba fragilis*.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium is incubated for a period of up to about 4 days.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium is incubated for up to about 48 hours.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein additional antibiotic and/or rice starch are added after about 24 hours of incubation.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the medium is incubated at a temperature in the range of 36°C to 38°C.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the portion of the incubated medium is examined microscopically.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the antibiotic is erythromycin.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the portion is or includes sediment.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the protozoa detected is one or more of *Dientamoeba fragilis*, *Blastocystis hominis*, *E. histolytica/dispar*, *Entamoeba* or *Iodamoeba*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Endolimax nana*, *Entamoeba coli*, or *Entamoeba hartmanni*.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the medium is incubated for a period of up to about 4 days.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein additional antibiotic and/or rice starch are added after about 24 hours of incubation.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the medium is incubated at a temperature in the range of 36°C to 38°C.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the portion of the incubated medium is examined microscopically.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the antibiotic is erythromycin.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the portion is or includes sediment.